

11/21/00

1c860 U.S. PTO

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PTO/SB/05 (11-00)

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	0315
First Inventor	Malpass
Title	Slip Resistant Mat and Process
Express Mail Label No.	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 8]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 6]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
 - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☒ Power of Attorney
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. ☐ Other: _____

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____ / _____

Prior application information Examiner _____ Group Art Unit _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.**19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label  (Insert Customer Number or Bar Code label here) or ☐ Correspondence address below

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State

Zip Code

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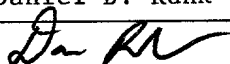
Name (Print/Type)

Daniel B. Runk

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

44,311

Signature



Date

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FEE TRANSMITTAL

for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Malpass
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	0315

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT	(\$)	710 750
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METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number	
Deposit Account Name	

- ☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed: ☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

	Large Entity	Small Entity
1. Revenue	More than \$5 million	Less than \$5 million
2. Assets	More than \$5 million	Less than \$5 million
3. Liabilities	More than \$5 million	Less than \$5 million
4. Employees	More than 50	Less than 50
5. Industry	Not a non-profit	Non-profit
6. Location	Not a small business	Small business
7. Ownership	Not a sole proprietorship	Sole proprietorship
8. Structure	Not a partnership	Partnership
9. Control	Not a limited liability company	Limited liability company
10. Other	Not a small business	Small business

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description
101	710	201	355	Utility filing fee
106	320	206	160	Design filing fee
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee

Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (1)	(\$)	710
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2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	16	-20** = 0	X
Independent Claims	3	-3** = 0	X
Multiple Dependent			

	Large Entity	Small Entity
1. Revenue Recognition	Revenue is recognized when the performance obligation is satisfied, which is when control of the goods or services is transferred to the customer.	Revenue is recognized when the performance obligation is satisfied, which is when control of the goods or services is transferred to the customer.
2. Cost of Sales	Cost of sales is recognized when the revenue is recognized, and it is measured at the cost incurred to produce the goods or services.	Cost of sales is recognized when the revenue is recognized, and it is measured at the cost incurred to produce the goods or services.
3. Impairment of Financial Assets	Impairment of financial assets is recognized when there is a decrease in the fair value of the asset, and it is measured at the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value.	Impairment of financial assets is recognized when there is a decrease in the fair value of the asset, and it is measured at the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value.
4. Impairment of Non-Financial Assets	Impairment of non-financial assets is recognized when there is a decrease in the carrying amount of the asset, and it is measured at the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value.	Impairment of non-financial assets is recognized when there is a decrease in the carrying amount of the asset, and it is measured at the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value.
5. Provisions	Provisions are recognized when there is a liability of uncertain timing or amount, and it is measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the liability.	Provisions are recognized when there is a liability of uncertain timing or amount, and it is measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the liability.
6. Share-based Payments	Share-based payments are recognized when the entity receives services from employees or directors, and it is measured at the fair value of the services received.	Share-based payments are recognized when the entity receives services from employees or directors, and it is measured at the fair value of the services received.
7. Financial Instruments	Financial instruments are recognized when the entity enters into a contract that gives rise to a financial asset or financial liability, and it is measured at the fair value of the instrument.	Financial instruments are recognized when the entity enters into a contract that gives rise to a financial asset or financial liability, and it is measured at the fair value of the instrument.
8. Income Tax	Income tax is recognized when the entity has a liability to pay income tax, and it is measured at the amount of tax payable.	Income tax is recognized when the entity has a liability to pay income tax, and it is measured at the amount of tax payable.
9. Other	Other items are recognized when they are required by the accounting standards, and they are measured at the fair value of the item.	Other items are recognized when they are required by the accounting standards, and they are measured at the fair value of the item.

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209	40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2)	(\$) 0
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***or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above*

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Fee Code	Large Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65		Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25		Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130		Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520		For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
192	920*	112	920*		Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*		Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55		Extension for reply within first month	
116	390	216	195		Extension for reply within second month	
117	890	217	445		Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,390	218	695		Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945		Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	310	219	155		Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155		Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135		Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510		Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55		Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,240	241	620		Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,240	242	620		Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220		Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300		Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130		Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50		Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
126	180	126	180		Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40		Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40
146	710	246	355		Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	710	249	355		For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	710	279	355		Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900		Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify)						

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3)	(\$)	40
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SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	Daniel B. Runk
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Signature

Stan RV

Registration No.
(Attorney/Agent)

44,311

Complete (if applicable)

Telephone	513-579-6479
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Date _____

11-21-00

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November 21, 2000

Via U.S. Express Mail

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

RE: Patent Application for "Slip Resistant Mat and Process of Manufacture of Same"

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find:

1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal;
2. Fee Transmittal Form;
3. Specification and Abstract (8 pages);
4. Drawings (6 sheets);
5. Declaration for Utility Patent Application;
6. Assignment of Invention and Recordation Form;
7. Power of Attorney;
8. Information Disclosure Statement;
9. Return Postcard;
10. Certificate of Express Mailing; and
11. Check for \$750 for \$710 filing fee and \$40 assignment fee.

Please file this application and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me (513-579-6479). Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,

KEATING, MUETHING & KLEKAMP, P.L.L.

BY: 

Daniel B. Runk

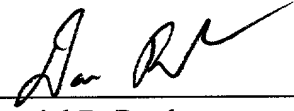
Enclosures

Certificate of Express Mail

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL 749/36 590 vs Date of Deposit: November 21, 2009



I hereby certify that these papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Daniel B. Runk

09/717553

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION SPECIFICATION

SLIP RESISTANT MAT AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE OF SAME

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates generally to slip resistant, anti-skid or anti-creep mats.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the past, dust floor mats, consisting of rubber backed carpet tuft, were made with either a smooth back, primarily for solid or non carpeted floors, or with a variety of "grippers" or "cleats" arranged to reduce the movement on carpeted floors. However, both of these approaches resulted in floor mats that were not skid resistant on smooth floors, especially those floors with high traffic areas or loads being moved over them. The movement of in the gripper/cleat mat design results from the force of foot and vehicle traffic on the mat which causes deformation around the compressed area and upon removal of such force the mat returns to a different position. For the smooth back mats, movement of the mat results from similar forces and the lack of any device intended to secure the mat in place.

A number of approaches have been taken to attempt to reduce the movement of mats. One known approach to the problem is to fasten the mat to the intended surface by various devices, such as that suggested by Kessler in U.S. Patent No. 6,068,908 which utilizes a system by which a mat is fastened to the surface using a clip system. While this approach is well-developed, it results in floor mats that are difficult or impossible to move from place to place and the structures required to attach the mat add a measure of expense to the mat and difficulty to the installation. Also, attached mats are more rigid.

Another approach involves the use of a frame into which the mat is placed, such as the frames used by Moffitt, Jr. in U.S. Patent No. 4,361,614 and Kessler in U.S. Patent No. 6,042,915. The frame can be located flush with or upon the surface. In either circumstance,

unless the frame is fastened as mentioned above or embedded in the surface, the frame still has a tendency to shift on the surface. If the frame is fastened or embedded, then the problems mentioned above remain.

Another approach involves the use of suction cups, such as those commonly found on shower and bath mats, examples of which can be found by Lindholm in U.S. Patent No. 6,014,779 in which the corners of a rectangular mat are held by four suction cups and by Gavlak in U.S. Patent No. 2,081,992 in which a plurality of suction cups hold the bathtub mat to the surface. While this invention provides acceptable slip-resistance for light shower and bath mat applications, traditional suction cups are not sufficient to prevent slipping in high traffic areas and also result in waves forming within mats, which results in movement of the mats and a less stable and flat top surface for the mats.

As mentioned, existing approaches to reducing movement of mats include significant limitations. Further, the known approaches require additional space, components, installation effort and expense. As a result, significant improvement can still be made relative to reducing the movement of floor mats.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to utilize recessions formed on the underside of the mat to reduce movement of the mat on the intended surface, typically floors. The present invention utilizes a plurality of recessions to reduce the movement of the mat. The recessions receive a compression force upon having foot or vehicular traffic impact the mat and such compression force creates a small low pressure area or near vacuum inside the recessions being impacted against the floor. As a result, the vacuum then creates a force that acts to oppose the lateral motion of the mat that would otherwise result from the traffic.

The size and shape specifications of the recessions can be varied and they can be positioned in a variety of arrangements. The recessions can be any shape that is formed on the

underside of the mat, does not extend through the top of the mat (i.e., is contained within the mat), and adjoins the floor in a continuous manner to permit the formation of a low pressure area or near vacuum. In one embodiment, the recessions are two sizes of cylinders or recessed circles, one with a width of 0.75" and a depth of .040" and the other with a width of 1" and a depth of .063". Also, in one embodiment, the recessions are positioned in straight rows along one axis with the recessions in each adjacent row along such axis offset along the perpendicular axis such that every row is identical along the parallel axes but shifted along the perpendicular axis. In one embodiment the pattern does not extend to the edge of the mat in order to prevent tearing and permit the edge of the mat to be uniformly thick. The existence of multiple sizes of recessions permits improved performance on a variety of floor surfaces since larger recessions perform better on some surfaces and smaller recessions perform better on others.

In one embodiment, the recessions are formed on a base layer of material and then the base layer of material is laminated to one or more other top layers of material. While the layers can be made from different materials, in one embodiment the base layer and any intermediate layers are sheets of rubber and the uppermost of the top layers is a union of a rubber sheet with carpet, yarn or other fabric on top. In one embodiment, a soft, low durometer rubber compound, such as LD-35, is plied to a T6 aluminum mold to form the recessions and then this base layer is laminated with one or more upper layers formed from Millennium Mat MM-170 rubber compound with the uppermost layer bonded with a yarn/carpet material. In this embodiment, after lamination of the layers, the laminated sheet is pricked to avoid the accretion of gases during the curing process. Additionally, in another embodiment, additives can be introduced to the mat to make it anti-bacterial.

One advantage of the present invention is that the mat resists slipping to a much greater extent than existing mat designs. Another advantage of the invention is that the edges of the mat are more stable and therefore it is less of a tripping hazard or obstacle than traditional mats in which the edge easily rolls up onto the mat. Another advantage is that it provides the slip-resistance features without adding any weight or installation complexity to existing mat designs.

Another advantage is that the invention does not require any permanent fastening means and is therefore easy to move to different locations. Another advantage is that the recessions provide some additional cushioning effect for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Another advantage is that the recessions' cushioning effect has an anti-fatigue effect, thereby resulting in reduced wear and tear and routine maintenance. Another advantage of the invention is that the slip-resistance is effective on a wide variety of surfaces because of the variable sized and spaced recessions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a bottom fragmentary view of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary side elevational view of one embodiment of the present invention taken across Line A—A.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary side elevational view of another embodiment of the present invention taken across Line A—A.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary side elevational view of another embodiment of the present invention taken across Line A—A.

FIG. 5 is a cut-away elevational view of a single recession in one embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a single recession in one embodiment and the forces impacting such recession.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG 1 illustrates a portion of a mat (20) with a plurality of small recessions (25) and large recessions (30) that extend nearly to the edge of the mat (15).

FIG 2 illustrates a view of a cross-section of a single layer mat (20). The mat (20) has a single layer (40) which contains recessions (30) in the underside (61) of the bottom layer (40).

FIG 3 illustrates a view of a cross-section of another single layer mat (20). The mat (20) has a single bottom layer (40) which contains recessions (30) in the underside (61) of the bottom layer (40). The bottom layer has a yarn, carpet or other fabric layer (52) laminated or otherwise

bonded to the upper surface (60) of the bottom layer (40).

FIG 4 illustrates a view of a cross-section of a multi-layer laminated mat (20) comprised of a bottom layer (40) and an upper layer (50). The upper surface (60) of the bottom layer (40) is laminated to or otherwise bonded with the lower surface (70) of the support layer (51) of the upper layer (50). The upper layer (50) has a yarn, carpet or other fabric layer (52) laminated or otherwise bonded on the upper surface (71) of the support layer (51). The bottom layer (40) contains recessions (30) in the underside (61) of the bottom layer (40).

FIG 5 illustrates a conceptual drawing of a single recession (30) depicted in FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The recession (30) has a width (w) running from the left edge (31) to the right edge (32), a height (h) running from the top edge (35) to the bottom edge (36), and a depth (d) running from the bottom opening (38) that would be flat against the floor to the top surface (39).

FIG. 6 depicts a single recession (30) in a mat (20). As foot or vehicle traffic impacts the mat (20), a force (f) is applied to the mat (20). In the vast majority of circumstances the force (f) does not impact the mat (20) in a completely vertical or horizontal manner; hence the force (f) consists of both horizontal force components ($f(x)$ and $f(y)$) and a vertical force component $f(z)$. The vertical force component $f(z)$ acts to press the mat down against the surface (10) and holds the mat (20) against the surface (10). Additionally, the vertical force component $f(z)$ also compresses the recession (30) thereby creating a low pressure area or near vacuum in the recession (30) between the mat (20) and the surface (10) which results in an effective resistant downward force (s) which acts in combination with the vertical force component (f_y) to oppose the horizontal force components $f(x)$ and $f(y)$ thereby resisting lateral movement of the mat (20).

The preceding description of the invention has shown and described certain embodiments thereof; however, it is intended by way of illustration and example only and not by way of limitation. Those skilled in the art should understand that various changes, omissions and additions may be made to the invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A mat comprising:
at least one layer of material having a generally flat top surface and a generally flat bottom surface;
the bottom layer of said mat having a plurality of recessions on said bottom surface of said bottom layer.
2. That mat as described in claim 1 wherein said material is rubber or plastic.
3. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein said recessions are cylindrical in shape.
4. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein said recessions are formed in a plurality of straight rows on said bottom surface of said bottom layer and said plurality of straight rows are parallel to each other.
5. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the top layer of said mat comprises a bond of said top layer with another layer consisting of the group of yarn, carpet or fabric.
6. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein said mat comprises two layers of materials having top and bottom surfaces the top surface of the bottom layer being bonded to the bottom surface of the top layer.
7. The mat as described in claim 5 wherein said mat comprises two layers of materials having top and bottom surfaces the top surface of the bottom layer being bonded to the bottom surface of the top layer.
8. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein said mat comprises two or more layers of material each of said layers consisting of a different material.
9. The mat as described in claim 8 wherein said layers consist of varieties of rubber having varying flexibilities.
10. The mat as described in claim 7 wherein said bottom layer consists of a rubber

compound having a lower durometer reading than said top layer.

11. The mat as described in claim 10 wherein said bottom layer has a durometer reading of less than 45 units and said top layer has a durometer reading of more than 75 units.

12. The mat as described in claim 10 wherein the durometer reading of said bottom layer is at least 25 durometer units less than said top layer.

13. The mat as described in claim 1 wherein said material of at least one layer of said mat is impregnated with anti-bacterial materials.

14. A process for producing a mat according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
supplying a sheet of material to a mold for a press molding of said mat; and
carrying out a press molding.

15. A process as described in claim 14 also comprising the step of cutting a molded sheet to the desired size to obtain a floor mat.

16. A process for producing a mat according to claim 6 or 7, comprising the steps of:
producing a bottom layer of material according to claim 14 or 15;
supplying a top layer of material; and
laminating said bottom layer and said top layer of material; and
curing said mat.

17. The process for producing a mat according to claim 6 or 7, comprising the steps of:
producing a bottom layer of material according to claim 14 or 15;
supplying a top layer of material;
laminating said bottom layer and said top layer of material;
pricking said mat; and
curing said mat.

ABSTRACT

A slip resistant floor mat composed of one or more layers of material the bottom layer of which incorporates a plurality of recessions in the bottom surface of the bottom layer that comes into contact with the intended surface, such as a floor. The mat may be manufactured by using a press mold to form recessions on the bottom surface of the bottom layer of the mat, and if desired, additional layers may be laminated together with the bottom layer.

007455-1100
SECRET

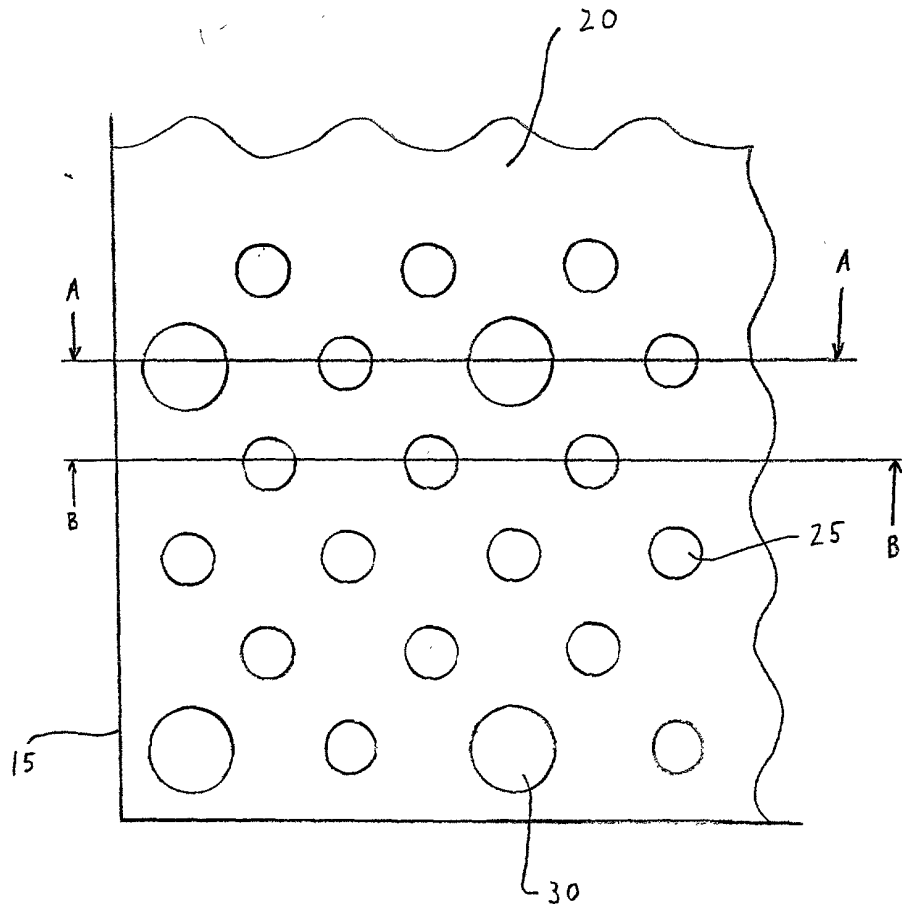


FIG. 1

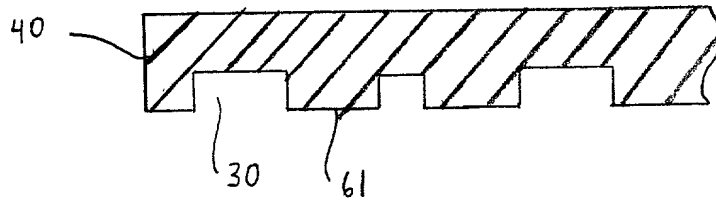


FIG. 2

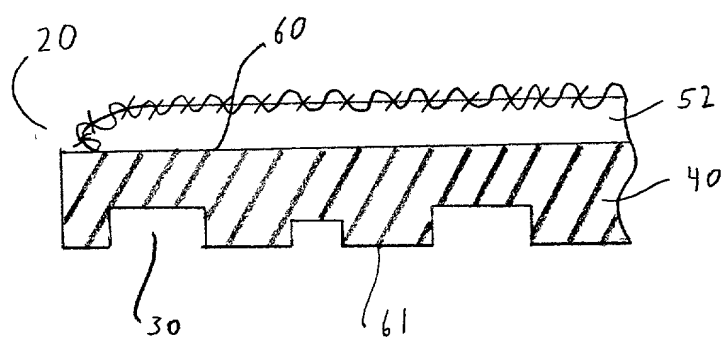


FIG. 3

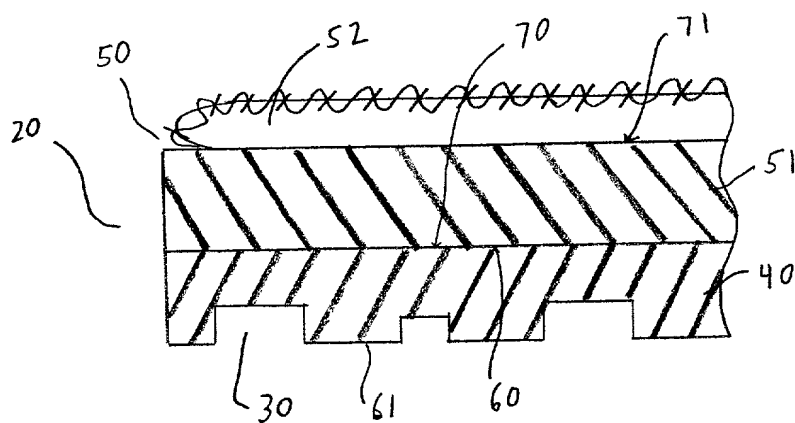


FIG. 4

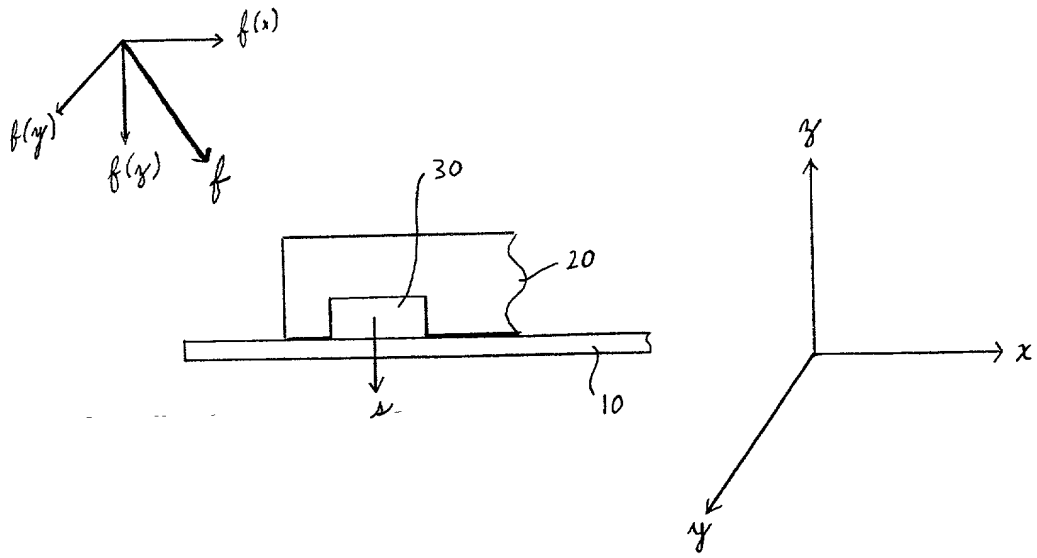


FIG. 6

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/01 (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)	Attorney Docket Number	0315
	First Named Inventor	Malpass
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	/
	Filing Date	
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Slip Resistant Mat and Process of Manufacture of Same

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

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PTO/SB/01 (10-00)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.				
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:			<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname		
John S.		Malpass		
Inventor's Signature				Date
Residence: City Alpharetta				State GA Country USA Citizenship U.K.
Mailing Address 9030 Old Southwick Pass				
Mailing Address				
City Alpharetta		State GA		ZIP 30022 Country USA
NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:			<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname		
Jeffrey L.		Cofer		
Inventor's Signature				Date
Residence: City Conyers				State GA Country USA Citizenship USA
Mailing Address 3314 Sans Way				
Mailing Address				
City Conyers		State GA		ZIP 30013 Country USA
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.				

(Page 2 of 2)

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Sent by: KEATING, MUETHING, KLEKAMP

513 579 6578;

11/21/00 11:17AM; JafFax #99; Page 10/11

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY OR
AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT**

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Malpass
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	0315

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners at Customer Number

44,311 26,612

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number
	26612

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I am the:

☐ Applicant/Inventor.☒ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/98).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name

The Millennium Mat Company, LLC

Signature

Date

11/21/00

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of forms are submitted.

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